



January 23, 2024

Gulf Coast State College
5230 West US Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401

Florida Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
PO Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to provide an update to Gulf Coast State College's Triumph application, #282. Since the original application, we have made modifications based upon needs of the programs and to ensure clarity in the application. The total project cost is: \$35,551,532.00 with Triumph's cost of \$24,302,669.00 and Gulf Coast's match of \$11,248,863.00. Awarding this grant will allow the development of a simulation (SIM) center and expansion of select nursing, health sciences, and public safety programs at Gulf Coast State College. The updated narrative in this letter provides the most up-to-date information. We are grateful to Triumph for this opportunity and look forward to the work that will be accomplished through this grant.

Sincerely,

Glen McDonald

President

Project Name: Nursing and Healthcare Expansion (updated project name)

Gulf Coast State College has proposed a Triumph project to expand the workforce in nursing, health sciences and public safety fields. The expansion is made possible by the creation of a new SIM Center to be located on the GCSC campus in Panama City at 5230 West Highway 98 at the intersection of Highway 98 and 23rd Street in Bay County. Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties are all disproportionately affected counties and students from all three counties are enrolled in the programs offered at GCSC's Panama City and North Bay campuses.

The multi-disciplinary programs offered at the Panama City and North Bay campuses are entry pathways to various career fields in the healthcare industry. Once program specific requirements are successfully completed and program licensure/certification exams passed (if required), graduates are eligible for employment in their chosen career field with extremely high employment rates. Further, many students continue their education by completing programs like the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program for nursing professionals or the Paramedic program for EMTs. GCSC can accommodate this continued study with established degree programs already in place. These programs allow students the flexibility to stay in our service district, if they so choose, and find gainful employment and/or continue their education in their chosen profession. Further, the partnerships with Haney Technical Center and Florida State University-Panama City, allow students greater opportunities to advance their degrees in nursing without leaving Bay County.

The proposed SIM Center will serve and support the Nursing and Health Sciences Divisions on the Panama City campus and EMS students at the North Bay campus. The use of advanced technology, high fidelity patient simulators will enable these students to receive hands-on skills training in an environment that emphasizes inter-professional collaboration, communication, and patient interaction, while simultaneously honing critical thinking and clinical judgment for each discipline. For many years, the limited availability of clinical training sites has long hampered various programs from expanding. The ability to train students in a simulated environment along with clinical rotations will help prepare graduates for careers in nursing and healthcare.

The SIM Center will also enable increased enrollment for the associate degree RN, RN-BSN, Respiratory Care, and EMT/Paramedic programs, thereby increasing individual career opportunities and satisfying community needs. The Triumph grant award will allow 4,312 more graduates to enter the workforce with specialty certifications, licensures, and degrees. Moreover, the proposed degree fields have current job placement rates ranging from 97%-100% and all have a predicted job growth rate increase over the next decade.

Partnering with a private virtual reality simulation company and establishing a Virtual Reality Training Lab within the SIM Center will allow GCSC training programs to revolutionize nursing and healthcare education and create a dynamic and immersive learning experience that brings numerous benefits to both students and professionals. Incorporating this type of training brings about a paradigm shift in how medical professionals are trained by improving clinical skills, confidence, and the ability to provide high-quality patient care. Virtual reality skills training creates realistic patient scenarios allowing learners to practice medical procedures and interventions in a controlled environment that mimics real-life situations and allows hands on experience without risk to patients. This type of revolutionary training also enhances student engagement, provides personalized and safe learning environments, allows repetition of skills practice, and promotes remote and flexible learning. Data driven assessment of individual learner outcomes also establishes the often-missing link between theory and practice.

In preparation for entering a nursing, health sciences, or public safety field, high school students with an interest and/or aptitude in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or healthcare related fields will

be encouraged to attend one of GCSC campuses to pursue a college degree or professional certification in the future. This exposure can enlighten and embolden them to plan for a better future as a healthcare professional. Hands-on participation and interaction will also allow each student the realization that any goal is not only possible, but more importantly attainable. This also provides an opportunity for students to recognize the technical training available in the local community; thus, eliminating the need to leave the area to pursue higher education and career skills training elsewhere. With the addition of the GCSC Nursing/Health Sciences Collegiate High School, this opportunity would be even further magnified for students.

The SIM Center will provide the students enrolled in nursing, health sciences and public safety programs with high quality, state of the art training that results in transferable, sustainable workforce skills. Students completing program content and successfully passing licensure/certification exams will be eligible to pursue employment throughout the region at numerous healthcare facilities, including Encompass Health and Rehabilitation, HCA Florida Gulf Coast Medical Center, Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital, Emerald Coast Behavioral Hospital & Outpatient Center, Select Rehabilitation Center, Sacred Heart on the Gulf, Weems Hospital, the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital under construction, as well as private medical offices and outpatient treatment centers in the area.

The economic impact for graduates and the community is outstanding. Students completing degree programs and passing licensures/certification exams, would earn a higher per capita income than the local areas served by GCSC. These salaries would range from \$20,000 to \$30,000 higher than current per capita incomes. The increase in individual earnings will contribute to the long-term economic recovery of the community by adding significant monthly income for the newly licensed and employed healthcare professionals and degree advancements in the area affected by the BP oil spill, Hurricane Michael, and COVID 19 pandemic. Higher standards of living, home ownership rates, graduate education opportunities, and increases in the purchase of durable and non-durable goods would now be possible. The ability to enhance individual spending will also positively impact many local businesses and service industries to increase sales and profits. Revenue increases may also entice more businesses and industries to relocate to the area and/or inspire local entrepreneurship; thus, providing diversification of local industries and businesses and enhance the economic outlook for the local area and region. The target industry of healthcare will also benefit from economic growth and diversification with the addition of 4,312 highly trained, technologically advanced, and professionals to the local workforce.

Facilitation of healthcare employee continuing education through the SIM Center will also positively impact the local economy. The cost of continuing education training for existing employees can range from \$602-\$1252 per employee. With new graduate nurse programs training an average of 60-100 nurses biannually at a projected cost of \$93,100, the projected monetary gains added to the local economy would be quite impactful and add to the local economic recovery.

Additional Information

The monetary funding requested is necessary to acquire very costly, state of the art simulation equipment and supplies, remodeling and construction of existing physical facilities to house the SIM Center, funding current employee continuing education training and simulation certification, and funding salaries to hire credentialed faculty necessary to staff the facility. The requested funding will supplement existing funding sources to renovate and construct simulation and nursing facilities. The proposed training will be delivered in currently existing classrooms, the newly remodeled SIM Center, at the leased SIM training site, and at traditional clinical facilities (hospitals, rehabilitation centers, assisted living facilities, long term care facilities, and urgent care facilities). The nursing and health sciences classrooms and the SIM Center are located on the GCSC Panama City Campus and the North Bay campus for EMS. The clinical training sites are in Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties.

Program information

Associate Degree RN program: The program length is 72 credit hours/two years for a GCSC associate in science (AS) degree and provides eligibility to sit for the National Counsel Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The Phlebotomy and Intravenous certifications are completed during the Associate Degree Nursing program.

RN-BSN program: The program length is an additional 48 credit hours and can be completed in as little as one calendar year after completion of the Associate Degree RN program.

Respiratory Care program: The program length is 76 credit hours/two years for a GCSC AS degree and provides eligibility to sit for the Therapist Multiple Choice Examination (TMC)

Paramedic Program: The program length is 42 credit hours/one year for a GCSC program certificate and provides eligibility to sit for the National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)

EMT Program: The program length is 12 credits/one semester for a GCSC program certificate and provides eligibility to sit for the National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)

Certified Nursing Assistant (articulated): The program length is 165 contact hours/8weeks for completion of a program certificate and provides eligibility to sit for the National Nursing Assistant (CNA) licensure exam

RN-FA program: The program length is 9 credit hours/3 semesters for an advanced technical certification and provides eligibility to sit for the Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant (CRNFA) certification exam.

Nursing and Healthcare Expansion Budget

Total project cost (over 10 years): \$35,551,532.00

Triumph funding (over 10 years): \$24,302,669.00

Gulf Coast State College match (over 10 years): \$11,248,863.00

The cost to Triumph per certificate/degree is: \$5636.05

The requested budget and match can be categorized in five areas: 1) construction, renovation, design, and engineering, 2) personnel, 3) equipment, supplies, and electronic resources, 4) professional development and 5) in-kind lease payments. Construction/renovation/design/engineering will begin once the grant has been awarded to create a SIM center on the Panama City campus. The match provided by Gulf Coast for construction costs is in monies allocated by the state for renovation of the Asbell business building for nursing and in the new STEM (natural sciences) construction costs to add an additional anatomy and physiology laboratory in anticipation of the expansion of nursing and health sciences programs. Additional personnel will be required to staff the new SIM center, teach courses, provide professional development, maintain equipment, and manage the grant. Gulf Coast and Triumph both have fiscal responsibility for funding personnel. Gulf Coast is requesting Triumph assistance in purchasing advanced technological and state of the art equipment and electronic resources for this project. Professional development will be necessary to provide training and instruction for faculty and staff in providing education using advanced simulation. The in-kind lease will be provided to GCSC by Ascension Sacred Heart during the SIM center's construction so that we may begin training additional nursing students before completion of the center. We will be able to hold nursing labs at Ascension Bay Medical Center.

By the completion of the tenth year of operations, the SIM Center will be self-sustaining due to additional student tuition and fee payments, revenues gained by offering a variety of continuing education programs, the collegiate high school, and enrollment increases from area academic partner programs.

Exhibit B

282 - Gulf Coast State College Nursing and Healthcare Expansion

Budget

8/1/2024

8/1/2024

	Construction, Renovations, Design, & Engineering	Personnel	Equipment, Supplies & Electronic Resources	Professional Development	In-kind Lease Payments	Total
Project Total						
2023	407,057.00	-	-	-	-	407,057.00
2024	8,802,057.00	446,305.00	3,505,600.00	75,000.00	183,680.00	13,012,642.00
2025	7,197,057.00	720,582.00	1,121,600.00	55,000.00	187,353.00	9,281,592.00
2026	3,395,000.00	853,156.00	128,000.00	20,000.00	-	4,396,156.00
2027	-	986,378.00	128,000.00	-	-	1,114,378.00
2028	-	1,015,970.00	128,000.00	-	-	1,143,970.00
2029	-	1,046,448.00	128,000.00	-	-	1,174,448.00
2030	-	1,077,842.00	128,000.00	-	-	1,205,842.00
2031	-	1,110,177.00	128,000.00	-	-	1,238,177.00
2032	-	1,143,483.00	128,000.00	-	-	1,271,483.00
2033	-	1,177,787.00	128,000.00	-	-	1,305,787.00
2034	-	-	-	-	-	-
Project Total	19,801,171.00	9,578,128.00	5,651,200.00	150,000.00	371,033.00	35,551,532.00
Triumph						
2023	-	-	-	-	-	-
2024	3,395,000.00	253,714.00	3,505,600.00	75,000.00	-	7,229,314.00
2025	6,790,000.00	335,400.00	1,121,600.00	55,000.00	-	8,302,000.00
2026	3,395,000.00	422,669.00	128,000.00	20,000.00	-	3,965,669.00
2027	-	510,239.00	128,000.00	-	-	638,239.00
2028	-	525,546.00	128,000.00	-	-	653,546.00
2029	-	541,312.00	128,000.00	-	-	669,312.00
2030	-	557,552.00	128,000.00	-	-	685,552.00
2031	-	574,278.00	128,000.00	-	-	702,278.00
2032	-	591,507.00	128,000.00	-	-	719,507.00
2033	-	609,252.00	128,000.00	-	-	737,252.00
2034	-	-	-	-	-	-
Triumph Total	13,580,000.00	4,921,469.00	5,651,200.00	150,000.00	-	24,302,669.00
Gulf Coast State College						
2023	407,057.00	-	-	-	-	407,057.00
2024	5,407,057.00	192,591.00	-	-	183,680.00	5,783,328.00
2025	407,057.00	385,182.00	-	-	187,353.00	979,592.00
2026	-	430,487.00	-	-	-	430,487.00
2027	-	476,139.00	-	-	-	476,139.00
2028	-	490,424.00	-	-	-	490,424.00
2029	-	505,136.00	-	-	-	505,136.00
2030	-	520,290.00	-	-	-	520,290.00
2031	-	535,899.00	-	-	-	535,899.00
2032	-	551,976.00	-	-	-	551,976.00
2033	-	568,535.00	-	-	-	568,535.00
2034	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grantee Total	6,221,171.00	4,656,659.00	-	-	371,033.00	11,248,863.00

Projected Net New Annual Completers							
	Associate Degree Nursing	Bachelor of Science Nursing	Respiratory Care	RN First Assistant	EMS (EMT & Paramedic)	CAPE and Industry Certifications	Projected Total
CY 23 Baseline Counts	96	25	16	14	36	0	
2024	24	10	4	0	0	138	176
2025	48	30	4	8	21	240	351
2026	48	50	4	8	21	328	459
2027	68	50	4	8	21	328	479
2028	68	50	4	8	21	376	527
2029	68	50	4	8	21	376	527
2030	68	50	4	8	21	376	527
2031	68	50	4	8	21	376	527
2032	68	50	4	8	21	376	527
2033	68	50	4	8	21	376	527
Totals	596	440	40	72	189	3290	4627
Totals with attrition	509	418	36	65	172	3112	4312